

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants also request consideration of the Third Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, which was filed on September 22, 2003, in the instant application. Copies of these papers were submitted together with the Letter Requesting Consideration of Papers Timely Filed, which was filed on November 25, 2003. Applicants request that the Examiner contact their undersigned representative should the Examiner have any questions regarding these outstanding papers.

Claims 1, 3-13, 25, 26, 34, 35, 38-40, 42, 47 and 49-78 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 9, 34, 47, 54, 58, 62, 67 and 73 are independent. Claims 1, 9, 47, 54 and 61 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention, while claims 67-78 have been added to recite additional features of the subject invention. Support for these changes and claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 3-13, 25, 26, 34, 35, 38-40, 42, 47 and 49-66 were previously allowed in this application. Applicants submit that the foregoing changes to claims 1, 9, 47, 54 and 61 do not affect the allowability of these claims. In addition to these claims being allowable, Applicants submit that claims 67-78 should be deemed allowable for patentably defining features of the supporting structure, the exposure apparatus, and the method for manufacturing semiconductor devices of the present invention.

Applicants submit, therefore, that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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